



PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Two Men Charged with Immigration Violations. EDER GONZALES-OROZCO, age 29, of Mexico, was charged in an Indictment with being an alien who knowingly and illegally re-entered the United States after being removed/deported, a violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326. HORACIO MEDINA-SANCHEZ, age 22, of Mexico, was charged in an Indictment with being an alien who knowingly and illegally entered the United States and eluded examination and inspection by immigration officers, a violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1325(a). Both men were arrested on October 13, 2011, in Richland County and charged with the immigration violations pursuant to a federal complaint. Both face a maximum penalty of 2 years imprisonment. The case was investigated by agents with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement,

Homeland Security Investigations and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Stacey D. Haynes of the Columbia office for prosecution.

Rock Hill Woman Charged with False Statements in Connection to a Passport Application ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Yadira Valdovinos, age 34, was charged in a two-count Indictment in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain a United States passport.

Yadira Valdovinos is charged with making a false claim of citizenship, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 911. Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty for that charge is imprisonment of three years.

Mr. Nettles went on to state that Yadira Valdovinos is also charged with one count of making a false statement on a passport application, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1542. The maximum penalty she could receive is 10 years imprisonment.

Mr. Nettles stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States State Department and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for prosecution.

Columbia Woman Charged with False Statements in Connection with Fraudulent Unemployment Benefits ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Angelina A. Snow, age 39, was charged in a one count Indictment in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain unemployment insurance benefits.

Angelina A. Snow is charged with making a false statements to government officials, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2). Mr.

Nettles stated the maximum penalty for that charge is imprisonment of five years.

Mr. Nettles stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States Department of Labor and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for prosecution.

Columbia Man Charged with False Statements in Connection with Fraudulent Unemployment Benefits ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Antione Graham, age 41, was charged in a one-count Indictment in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain unemployment insurance benefits.

Antione Graham is charged with making a false statements to government officials, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2). Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty for that charge is imprisonment of five years.

Mr. Nettles stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States Department of Labor and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for prosecution.

Little River Man Charged with False Statements in Connection with Fraudulent Unemployment Benefits ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that James H. Blackwell, age 34, was charged in a one-count Indictment in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain unemployment insurance benefits.

James H. Blackwell is charged with making a false statements to

government officials, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2). Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty for that charge is imprisonment of five years.

Mr. Nettles stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States Department of Labor and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for prosecution.

Patrick Man Charged with False Statements in Connection with Fraudulent Unemployment Benefits ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that John A. Morrison, age 57, was charged in a one count Indictment in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain unemployment insurance benefits.

John A. Morrison is charged with making a false statements to government officials, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2). Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty for that charge is imprisonment of five years.

Mr. Nettles stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States Department of Labor and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for prosecution.

Rock Hill Man Charged with False Statements in Connection with Fraudulent Unemployment Benefits ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Joseph E. Houston III, age 30, was charged in a one-count Indictment in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain unemployment

insurance benefits.

Joseph E. Houston III is charged with making a false statements to government officials, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2). Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty for that charge is imprisonment of five years.

Mr. Nettles stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States Department of Labor and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for prosecution.

Rock Hill Man Charged with False Statements in Connection with Fraudulent Unemployment Benefits ---- United States Attorney Bill Nettles stated today that Precious E. Caldwell, age 30, was charged in a one-count Indictment in connection with a scheme to fraudulently obtain unemployment insurance benefits.

Precious E. Caldwell is charged with making a false statements to government officials, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001(a)(2). Mr. Nettles stated the maximum penalty for that charge is imprisonment of five years.

Mr. Nettles stated that the case was investigated by agents of the United States Department of Labor and that he has assigned the case to Assistant United States Attorney T. DeWayne Pearson of the Columbia office for prosecution.

Columbia Man Charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm. James Anthony Ashford, age 27, of Columbia, was charged in a 1-count Indictment with felon in possession of a firearm. The maximum penalty Ashford could receive is a fine of \$250,000 and life imprisonment. The case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Columbia Police Department and was prosecuted as part of the joint federal, state and local Project CeaseFire initiative, which aggressively prosecutes firearm cases. Assistant United States Attorney Jean M. Popowski of the Columbia office will handle the prosecution of the case.

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in these Indictments are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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